

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 18862 01 OF 02 060603Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /165 W

----- 047338

R 060322Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8740

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 18862

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PGOV, TH

SUBJ: GENERAL KRIS SIVARA'S DECEMBER 3 NEWS CONFERENCE

RTA COMMANDER, GENERAL KRIS SIVARA, WHO ALSO SERVES AS DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND ORDER UNDER THE SANYA GOVERNMENT, HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 3. HE COMMENTED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE RETURN OF COLONEL NARONG KITTAKACHORN, BANGKOK RUMOR MONGERING, MAINTAINING PEACE AND ORDER, HIS POLITICAL FUTURE AND ELECTIONS. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON THE ABOVE TOPICS:

1. NARONG'S RETURN:

KRIS: ANY EFFORT TO RETURN WOULD NOT OBTAIN ANY SUCCESS AT PRESENT, AND HE WOULD DISPLAY VERY LITTLE INTELLIGENCE SHOULD HE RETURN NOW. OUR VIEW IS THAT THE FATHER AWAY THE (NARONG THANOM AND PRAPHAT) ARE FROM THAILAND, THE BETTER IT WILL BE.

REPORTER: SHOULD HE RETURN HERE WOULD HE BE ARRESTED?

KRIS: SHOULD HE RETURN HE WOULD BE DEFINITELY ARRESTED. SINCE HE COMMITTED OFFENSES HE WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRESTED AND AN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 18862 01 OF 02 060603Z

ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED ALREADY. THE AMNESTY GRANTED IS

FOR OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE ESPECIALLY SPECIFIED, AND IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THESE THREE PERSONS.

REPORTER: WOULD ALL THREE PERSONS BE ARRESTED?

KRIS: ALL THREE PERSONS WOULD BE ARRESTED.

2. BANGKOK RUMOR MONGERING:

KRIS: PLEASE DO NOT BELIEVE REPORTS AT ALL. ALL KINDS OF REPORTS ARE SPREADING IN BANGKOK AND NEARBY AND THEY SOUND TERRIBLE. LISTENING TO THEM CREATES GREAT WORRY.

REPORTER: THERE IS A REPORT STATING THAT YOU WILL RESIGN?

KRIS: RESIGN FROM WHAT?

REPORTER: FROM THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND ORDER.

KRIS: I HAVE NEVER SAID THAT AT ALL.

REPORTER: THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GREATLY ALARMED.

KRIS: THIS QUESTION YOU HAVE ASKED ME IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW ALL KINDS OF REPORTS ARE BEING SPREAD IN BANGKOK. IF I HAD MADE SUCH A STATEMENT, I WOULD RESIGN. BUT I HAVE NEVER EVEN SPOKEN OF RESIGNING AT ALL.

REPORTER: PEOPLE ARE AFRAID THAT SHOULD YOU RESIGN THE SITUATION WOULD BECOME VERY TROUBLED.

KRIS: I HAVE NEVER MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. SINCE I WAS APPOINTED TO THIS SPECIAL POSITION BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING, HOW COULD I RESIGN FROM IT AS I PLEASED?

3. MAINTAINING PEACE AND ORDER:

REPORTER: I HAVE HEARD THAT HE (THE PRIME MINISTER) SAID THAT SHOULD INCIDENTS BECOME TOO VIOLENT, TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT PEACE AND ORDER COULD NOT BE SAFEGUARDED, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO RESORT TO SURGERY. WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 18862 01 OF 02 060603Z

KRIS: I BELIEVE THAT WHEN HE SAID THAT HE MEANT THAT SINCE HE IS THE PRIME MINISTER HE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO USE ANY AND ALL MEASURES. AT THE START HE IS NOT USING THE AUTHORITY HE POSSESSES BUT HE IS SHOWING LENIENCY. BUT SHOULD INCIDENTS BECOME VIOLENT HE MIGHT USE THE POWERS HE POSSESSES AS PRIME MINISTER, SUCH AS SPECIAL POWERS UNDER ARTICLE 17 ALSO. THEREFORE, THE EXPRESSION HE USED "SURGERY" MEANS THAT HE WILL BE THE SURGEON HIMSELF.

REPORTER: HE WOULDN'T USE THE MILITARY, WOULD HE?

KRIS: OH NO* PLEASE DON'T THINK LIKE THAT* HE COULD USE ANY-BODY. HE COULD USE THE DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND ORDER, OR HE COULD USE THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. THIS IS WHY HE SAYS HE WILL USE "MILD MEDICINES" FIRST. SHOULD NO RESULTS BE OBTAINED AND SHOULD INCIDENTS STAGED BEYOND PROPER LIMITS, THEN HE WOULD HAVE TO USE STRICTER MEASURES. BUT SHOULD INCIDENTS NOT GO BEYOND PROPER LIMITS, HE WOULD NOT USE THEM.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT INCIDENTS MIGHT BECOME SO VIOLENT AS TO NECESSITATE RESORT TO SPECIAL POWERS UNDER ARTICLE 17?

KRIS: AS FAR AS I HAVE SEEN, VARIOUS EMPLOYEES ARE TAKING TURNS IN STAGING STRIKES, THEN WHEN DEMANDS ARE MET THEY ARE SATISFIED. I BELIEVE THAT THE STAGING OF STRIKES WILL MOST PROBABLY COME TO AN END AUTOMATICALLY, AFTER EMPLOYEES OF ALL COMPANIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES HAVE STAGED STRIKES.
KINTNER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 18862 02 OF 02 060656Z

16
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /165 W
----- 047742

R 060322Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8741

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 18862

4. POLITICAL FUTURE:
REPORTER: HAVE ANY MEMBERS OF FORMER POLITICAL PARTIES
INVITED YOU TO JOIN THEIR PARTY?

KRIS: NO, BECAUSE I HAVE ANNOUNCED ALREADY THAT I AM HAPPY AND PREFER REMAINING IN MY PRESENT POSITION.

REPORTER: BUT HASN'T ANYBODY SOUNDED YOU AT ALL?

KRIS: NOBODY HAS EVER SOUNDED ME. PERHAPS NOBODY DARED TO.

REPORTER: WHAT ANNOUNCEMENT DID YOU MAKE?

KRIS: I ANNOUNCED THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS, SO OF WHAT USE WOULD IT HAVE BEEN TO COME AND SOUND ME? EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT I WILL NOT ENTER THE POLITICAL ARENA, THEREFORE IT WOULD BE OF NO USE WHATEVER TO TRY AND PERSUADE ME TO JOIN ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

5. ELECTIONS:

REPORTER: WHAT WAY DO YOU HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD WILL BE ORDERLY?

KRIS: THIS IS WHAT I'M AFRAID OF. EVEN WHEN ELECTIONS ARE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 18862 02 OF 02 060656Z

HELD NORMALLY, WHEN THERE ARE NO INCIDENTS, WE HAVE SEEN THAT IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT SOME INCIDENTS OCCUR. WHAT I FEAR IS THAT SHOULD THE INTERNAL SITUATION NOT BE RESTORED TO NORMAL YET THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS MIGHT BE DANGEROUS. BY NORMAL I MEAN WHAT WE CALLED A NORMAL SITUATION IN THE PAST. IT CAN BE SEEN THAT THE SITUATION HAS NOT RETURNED TO NORMAL YET; PROCESSIONS ARE STILL BEING STAGED, SUCH AS DEMANDING THE OUSTER OF TEACHERS, OR OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, AND THE RECENT INCIDENTS STAGED IN CHAIYAPHUM. WHEN SUCH INCIDENTS OCCUR, IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IS QUIET AND ORDERLY, SHOULD AN

ELECTION CAMPAIGN BE HELD AT PRESENT, I FEAR THAT MORE DIS-QUIETING INCIDENTS MIGHT OCCUR AND TO A GREATER EXTENT.

REPORTER: IN YOUR CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND ORDER, WHAT MEASURES WILL YOU USE TO REMEDY THE SITUATION?

KRIS: BY MAKING APPEALS. THERE IS NO OTHER METHOD I CAN USE EXCEPT TO MAKE APPEALS, AND TO APPEAL TO ALL MASS MEDIA ALSO. WE WANT DEMOCRACY AND WE WANT TO OBTAIN IT IN AN ORDERLY MANNER, NOT BY SHOOTING AND FIGHTING AND BY TOTAL CHAOS, BECAUSE THAT WOULD NOT BE TRUE DEMOCRACY. THIS CONSTITUTION WE HAVE OBTAINED COULD BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH THE BLOODSHED OF A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF OUR PEOPLE. IT SHOULD BE A GOOD CONSTITUTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, A CONSTITUTION IS A DOCUMENT, THEREFORE ITS EFFICACY DEPENDS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH PEOPLE CONFORM TO IT. REGARDLESS HOW EXCELLENTLY A CONSTITUTION MAY BE DRAFTED, ITS EFFICACY DEPENDS MAINLY ON HOW WE

CONFORM TO IT. NO MATTER HOW EXCELLENT A CONSTITUTION MAY BE,
SHOULD FIGHTING BREAK OUT CONTINUALLY FROM THE TIME WHEN ELECTION
CAMPAIGNS ARE STARTED, THE SITUATION WOULD BE TERRIBLE.
THIS IS WHY I APPEAL TO ALL MASS MEDIA FOR HELP. IN OTHER
WORDS, WE HAVE OBTAINED THIS CONSTITUTION WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY,
THEREFORE WHEN ELECTIONS ARE HELD THEY SHOULD BE REALLY CLEAN
AND ABOVE-BOARD IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT WE HAVE A GOOD CONSTI-
TUTION...PLEASE HELP IN EVERYTHING YOU WRITE BY APPEALING
TO THE PEOPLE TO CONFORM TO THE LAW IN ALL THEIR ACTIONS AND
ACTIVITIES. THE POLICE HAVE TO UPHOLD THE LAW, OTHERWISE GOOD
AND LAWABIDING PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER HARDSHIPS. AS THE PRIME
MINISTER HAS EMPHASIZED, IT IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO
CONFORM TO THE LAW.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 18862 02 OF 02 060656Z

KINTNER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL STABILITY, MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PEACE, POLITICAL LEADERS, EXILES, PRESS CONFERENCES, ARRESTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO18862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731242/aaaabesm.tel
Line Count: 243
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Oct-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2002 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL KRIS SIVARA'S DECEMBER 3 NEWS CONFERENCE RTA COMMANDER, GENERAL KRIS SIVARA, WHO ALSO SERVES AS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PGOV, TH, (NARONG KITTIKACHORN), (PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN), (KRIS SIVARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005